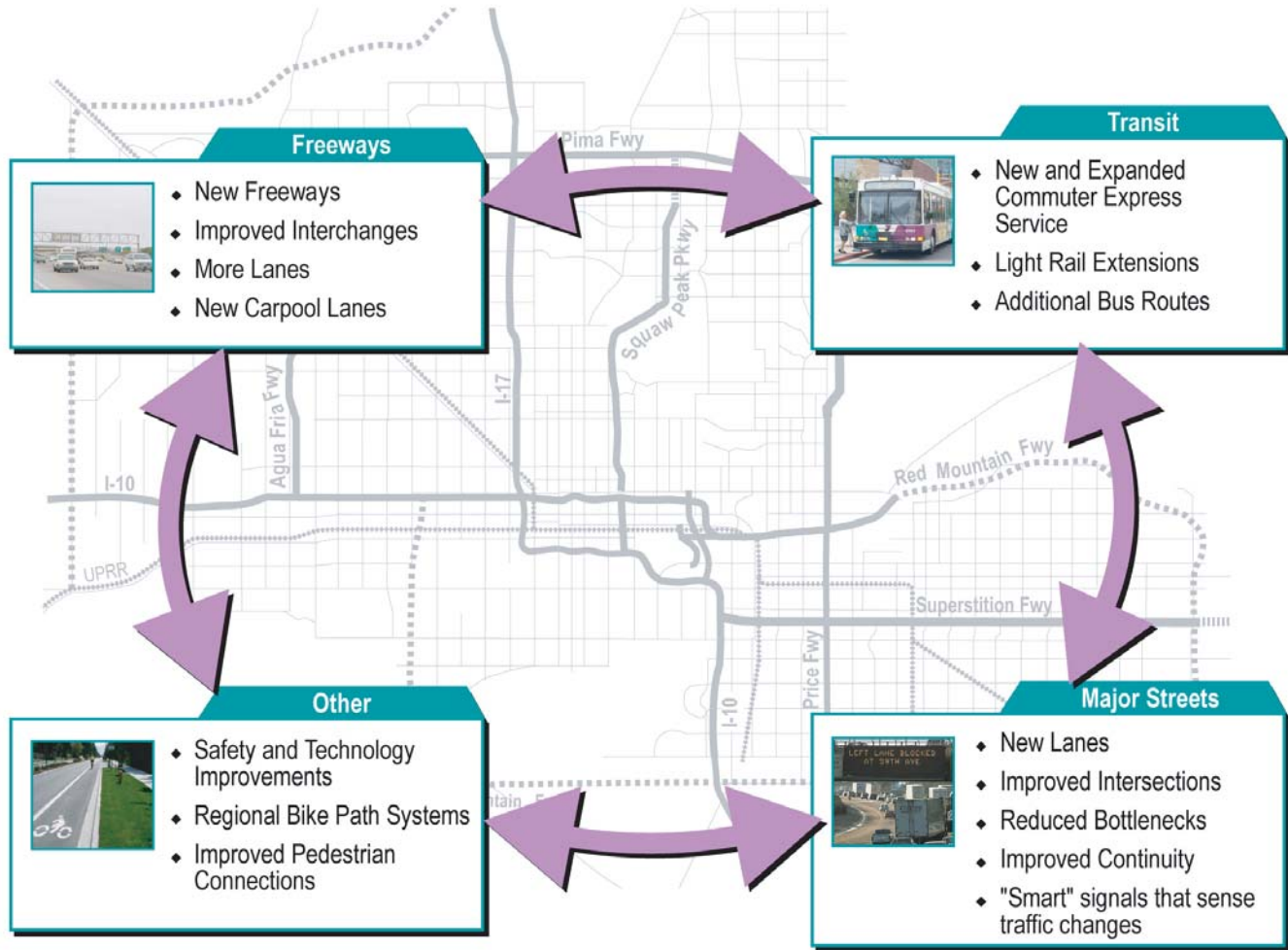


What the Plan Might Include



Please Participate!

We want to hear from you! During the next several months, MAG will be holding public meetings, workshops and opportunities for you to share your vision for our transportation future. For more information, contact MAG at (602) 254-6300. Or, check out our Web site for frequent updates on meeting dates and places, to take our poll, or to request a speaker for your group at: www.LetsKeepMoving.com.



In the past three years, the region has added 155 miles in bike lanes and about 18 miles of paved paths.

Maricopa Association of Governments
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Our Transportation Future



Let's Keep Moving!



Maricopa Association of Governments

The Problem

We live in one of the fastest-growing regions in the United States. Anyone who's been in the Valley for more than a few years has probably experienced the effects of that growth – both good and bad. Growth brings opportunities, but it also brings challenges.

One such challenge is how to plan and develop a transportation system that will continue to serve a population expected to double in the next 30 years. How will six million people get to where they live, work, shop and play? What will our transportation priorities be decades from now? What alternative transportation options will be available?

Transportation means more to us than getting from here to there. Our economy is dependent on a good transportation system – congestion costs time and money. Planning for the Valley's future transportation needs is not simply a question of how to accommodate more vehicles. The solution involves finding the right mix of choices – from freeways to public transit – to efficiently move people and goods to maintain quality of life and economic vitality.

The solution involves finding the right mix of choices — from freeways to public transit.

Implementing those choices will take resources. To date, our transportation improvements have been made using a half-cent sales tax dedicated to that purpose.



Valley travel is expected to increase more than 70 percent over the next 20 years. Freeway improvements will play an important role in the new Regional Transportation Plan.

Unfortunately, that tax will expire in 2005, leaving us without a primary funding source for transportation. Unless the half-cent sales tax is extended by voters, our Valley will be left without money to pay for major transportation projects in the future.

The Plan

We've made a lot of progress in the past 20 years. By 2007, nearly 150 miles of Valley freeways will be complete. Now it's time to look at the next round of transportation investments.

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has spent the past two years conducting intensive transportation studies and talking to thousands of people to identify future transportation needs. This input is being used in the creation of a new Regional

Transportation Plan Time Line



The Transportation Policy Committee is a diverse public/private partnership charged with finding solutions to the region's transportation challenges.

Transportation Plan, which will guide transportation investments in the region for the next 20-30 years. More than 300 projects have already been identified that could become part of the plan. The plan will be guided by performance goals such as safety, mobility, and air quality. The Regional Transportation Plan is being developed in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation and Valley Metro. Safeguards are being put in place to prevent cost overruns and to provide citizen oversight.

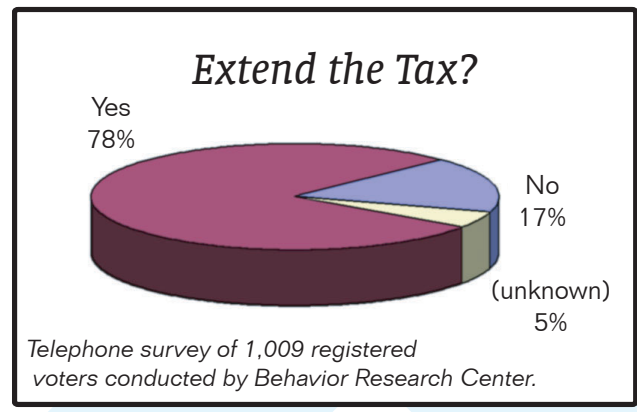
The People Behind the Plan

To ensure that we are creating a living transportation plan that will continue to address our growing needs, MAG has formed the Transportation Policy Committee, a public/private partnership charged with finding solutions to the region's transportation challenges. The Committee is made up of a diverse group of government, business and community representatives with transportation expertise, who are dedicated to developing a plan that is regionally balanced and includes a variety of transportation modes.

The committee recognizes that its work must reflect the vision of all Valley residents. That's why it has implemented an extensive outreach effort to make sure as many people as possible have a chance to share their ideas for our transportation future. To learn more on how you can provide input, see page 4.

The Poll

Maricopa County voters could be allowed to decide as early as 2004 whether to extend the half-cent sales tax another 20 years. Continuation of the tax would raise approximately \$8.3 billion to make the transportation improvements necessary to continue the progress made over the past 20 years - without costing voters anything more than what they are currently paying. Many voters seem willing to make that investment: in a recent poll of 1,009 voters conducted by



the Behavior Research Center, eight out of ten people said they would support the tax extension.

The Process

The Maricopa Association of Governments has outlined an intensive schedule to ensure completion of the plan by the end of the year. Draft alternatives will be presented to the public in spring of 2003. The final plan will be adopted by the Regional Council in December of 2003. Public events will be held throughout the process.



Potential light rail extensions are being considered as part of the new Regional Transportation Plan.



Currently, there are more than 40 million boardings on Valley Metro buses each year.

